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David's Love of Tomorrow

By William Chan

PHNOM PENH: David De R.Channer is a paradox. He comes from a long line of soldiers, five generations mostly serving in India side by side with the fierce fighting Gurkhas.

Forty six years ago, he stopped that kind of fighting, so did his brother and father.

But they are still at war, against prejudice, bitterness and conflict. Their "war" is through the message of compassion, love and understanding.

Channer, now 66, is in the capital city, his first visit to the country that needs more than anything else right now — moral responsibility to leave conflicts behind and look forward to a new era of peace. His message to the people is in a documentary film, "For the Love of Tomorrow," which tells of a significant initiative by a French socialist leader to restore Franco-German relationships after the second world war.

Channer has made many films and videos for the International Moral Re-Armament movement for world audience, most of them on the MRA theme that man must change so that trusts and understanding will build the foundation for peace.

He is here with Frenchman Alain Tate, 65, who gave up banking 43 years ago to work for peace alongside hundreds of men and women to make the world a better place to live. They are here to stage a seminar on confidence building for peace in the country for two days from May 26 at the Cambodiana Hotel. "For the Love of Tomorrow" will be screened during the seminar. It is available for general screening with Khmer commentary. Untac chief, Yasushi Akashi, will open the seminar at 8am on the first day. Speakers at the seminar include those who have been party to disputes, and those working for peace like General Mkungu Joseph Lagu,

who headed Sudanese guerillas for 17 years, and Rajmohan Gandhi, Indian academic-politician and grandson of a man whose name is synonymous with peace, to Cambodia's own Maha Ghosananda.

The seminar is designed to get locals from all factions to realise the need to live together in peace instead of tearing the country under one pretext or the other.



David De R.Channer and Alain Tate